



**USAID**  
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**CROATIA**

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

# Local Government Reform

**USAID and 49 Croatian cities, towns and municipalities joined forces to improve public finance, procurement and asset management.**



*USAID supported discussions throughout the country to inform the public and political parties on the benefits and cost of direct election of mayors. In mid-march, the Government accepted the draft law, which is now in Parliament for adoption.*

Implementer: Urban Institute

Partners: Government Central Office for State Administration, Association of Cities and Municipalities, International City/County Management Association

Partner Local Governments: Barilović, Bebrina, Bjelovar, Brodski Stupnik, Cernik, Cetingrad, Crikvenica, Dežanovac, Donji Kukuruzari, Drniš, Dvor, Đulovac, Glina, Grubišno Polje, Gvozd, Hrvace, Hrvatska Dubica, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Jasenovac, Karlovac, Kistanje, Knin, Končanica, Koprivnica, Lipovljani, Majur, Nova Kapela, Novska, Okučani, Oriovac, Osijek, Pakrac, Polača, Rakovica, Rešetari, Rijeka, Sibenik, Sirač, Sisak, Slatina, Slavonski Brod, Split, Staro Petrovo Selo, Sunja, Šibenik, Topusko, Varaždin, Vinkovci, Vojnić.

Twinning Cities: Umag, Buzet, Labin, Pazin, Karlovac, Dubrovnik

U.S. Agency for International Development  
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The Local Government Reform Program (LGRP) provides assistance to strengthen components of local governments in Croatia to expand citizen participation and enable them to assume greater fiscal and administrative responsibilities through decentralization. The program has several elements. It introduces skills in managing assets that creates greater revenue from the sale of management properties for local governments.

An e-government system was established in some cities to foster transparency, improve efficiency, track the performance of elected officials and enable citizens to participate in local government affairs.

Professional development courses have trained local government officials throughout the country to provide continuing education for local government officials.

The City Twinning activity partnered Croatian cities with cities in the U.S. These partnerships addressed specific issues faced by Croatian cities and means for improving the performance of local government.

To address the long-term needs of local governments and to support local democracy, USAID works with the Government of Croatia, ministries, parliamentarians, local officials and NGOs to reform legislation with a direct impact on local governments.

**Results** After implementing USAID's asset management model, the City of Split increased revenue by 13% (nearly \$1 million) in 2005. Through this process, assets that were never included in public registers were identified. Over the past three years the City of Karlovac increased revenue by \$750,000 and the City of Varazdin doubled revenue since it started using the asset management model in 2001.

Over 250 local government officials completed professional development courses with assistance from USAID, the University of Zagreb, University of Split, Sibenik College, the University of Rijeka and the Zagreb School of Economics and Management. Course topics included e-government, asset management, performance management and other areas of public administration.

Fifty five local governments in Croatia are using USAID's e-government model that gives 1.5 million citizens access to information. Local governments using this system are eligible to apply for the ISO 9001 certification that adds to their credit worthiness and supports their application to different EU and international financial institutions funds.

Urban Institute